

The following "species incertæ" have been identified, viz.:—

<i>Cypselus melba</i> , p. 17.	<i>Ædemosyne cantans</i> , p. 27.
<i>Caprimulgus nubicus</i> , p. 18.	<i>Passer domesticus</i> , p. 28.
<i>Coccyzus jacobinus</i> , p. 20.	<i>Vinago waalia</i> , p. 29.
<i>Centropus superciliosus</i> , p. 20.	<i>Larus affinis</i> , p. 36.
<i>Lanius collurio</i> , p. 21.	<i>Ardea bubulcus</i> , p. 37.
<i>Argya squamiceps</i> , p. 23.	<i>Scopus umbretta</i> , p. 38.

The present list is, I think, fairly complete, so far as our meagre knowledge of the avifauna of Aden allows. But as the above-given identifications and additions were in great measure made by one not devoting himself especially to ornithology, and in only about ten weeks' collecting, it shows how much still remains to be done. I trust, therefore, that some resident of the place will take the birds in hand and make a really complete list, in lieu of the present one. Eight "species incertæ" still await identification, while a few, included, I fear, on but slight evidence, e. g. *Caccabis chukar*, *Saxicola pleschanka*, *Haliaëtus leucogaster*, and possibly some few others, require verification, and this task I commend to this unknown personage to start on.

### III.—On the Birds observed at the Salvage Islands, near Madeira. By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT.

WHILE spending some weeks at Madeira in the spring of 1890 I heard so much about the Salvage Islands, and the enormous number of sea-birds that breed there, that I determined to pay them a visit at the earliest opportunity. It was not, however, till the spring of 1895 that the long-contemplated visit became possible, for these rocky islets—which lie, roughly speaking, about halfway between Madeira and the Canaries—are considered, and justly so, very dangerous to approach, so that steamers passing to and fro give them a wide berth. The only means, therefore, of reaching them are to hire a vessel either at Madeira or the Canaries, which of course entails a very considerable

addition to one's other expenses, and it was only owing to the substantial help offered by Mr. Cecil Baring (who accompanied me on the trip) and his uncle that the wished-for expedition became feasible. It was settled that we should sail on the 4th April last for Madeira, where we had been given to understand a vessel would be waiting to run us down to the Salvages. This arrangement, however, fell through, and after being delayed at Madeira for a week (to our infinite disgust, as time was limited) we took steamer to Gran Canary. Here we at last escaped from the persistently bad weather that had followed us from England, and, after some trouble, managed to hire the 'Pedro,' a small steam-tug of about 25 tons, a small boat and crew of four Spanish fishermen, and a Spanish cook. We have already given a somewhat full account of our trip to the Salvages and the various accidents which befell us on our way\*, so I only propose to give here a more complete account of the 21 species of birds found by us on these islands, together with remarks on such habits as we were able to observe during our limited stay of eight days. Our headquarters were on Great Salvage, where we obtained the majority of the specimens collected. During our three weeks' collecting (for the other three were spent at sea) we obtained in all 16 skins of mammals (rabbits and mice), over 200 bird-skins, about 40 skeletons of birds, as well as a number in spirits; many examples of 5 species of reptiles, both alive and in spirits; 173 fishes, including examples of 72 different species; 450 land and freshwater molluscs (several being rare local forms peculiar to these islands), 400 Arthropods, 700 Insects of various kinds, and a few Echinoderms and Worms. A complete collection was made of all the plants met with on Great Salvage and Great Piton, but unfortunately many of these were spoiled by the addition at the last moment of a specially fine ice-plant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*). We did not then know the impossibility of drying this never-sufficiently-to-be-abused plant, and the many sheets of drying-paper round

\* See 'The Field,' 21st and 28th September, 1895 (reprinted in 'The Zoologist,' 1895, pp. 401-417).

it were as nothing, for it soaked through the whole lot of plants before reaching England. This was a great disappointment, for Mr. Baring had taken special trouble with this part of the collection, and a good many of the plants, which were *nearly all in flower*, when unpacked were in such a mouldy condition that they could only be thrown away. For this reason I have been unable to identify with certainty the asparagus (*Asparagus scoparius?*), which, together with the wild tomato (*Lycopersicum esculentum*), was by far the largest and most conspicuous plant on Great Salvage. Lastly we brought away specimens of the various rocks and volcanic sands covering parts of the top of Great Salvage, and these are now being examined by Dr. Gregory of the Natural History Museum. We were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. H. Grönvold, an excellent taxidermist employed by the British Museum, and it was largely due to his skill that our collection of skins and skeletons arrived in such fine condition.

#### 1. CERCHNEIS TINNUNCULUS.

There were several pairs of Kestrels both at Great Salvage and Great Piton, and we shot one, a female, on the former island as a specimen. It was rather a light-coloured bird, but otherwise quite similar to British examples. We never actually found a nest, nor did we take much trouble to do so, but with the aid of a glass made out the cavity in the face of the volcanic cliff where a pair were evidently breeding. As, however, it would have been impossible to get down to the spot without a rope, we did not attempt to meddle with them. One or two birds were generally to be seen on the wing, hovering over the ice-plant and asparagus bushes, amongst which dwelt colonies of mice and many rabbits. The mouse is, according to Mr. Oldfield Thomas, the same species as that found in North Africa and allied to our house-mouse, but easily distinguished by its larger size, browner back, and white underparts.

#### 2. FALCO SUBBUTEO.

One morning, on reaching the summit of some rocks, we

suddenly found ourselves face to face with a Hobby, and, though no attempt was made on its life, we were able to identify it beyond doubt.

—3. *ASIO ACCIPITRINUS*.

We saw three pairs of Short-eared Owls during our stay on Great Salvage, and shot one female to identify the species. One or two were generally to be seen on the wing towards the afternoon, working quietly up and down over the top of the island with quick spasmodic wing-beats, and uttering their short harsh note at intervals. On the first afternoon spent there we had gone up with Miguel, our Spanish cook, to get a few rabbits for the camp, and see what was to be seen. It chanced that an inquisitive Kestrel and a Short-eared Owl came to find out what we were after and were promptly "collected." Miguel gravely informed us that they were respectively *señor y señora* of the same species! The Owls as well as the Kestrels no doubt levied a heavy toll on the mice, and it pleased us to think that at least some check was being put on these ruthless destroyers of the White-breasted Petrels (*Pelagodroma marina*) and their eggs, of which more anon.

4. *ANTHUS BERTHELOTI*.

One of the most numerous, as well as the tamest, of the small birds on Great Salvage was Berthelot's Pipit, which is also common at Madeira, the Desertas, Porto Santo, and the Canaries. These little birds were our constant companions, and one or two of them were almost always to be seen running about among the stones and ice-plants, generally within a few yards of one's feet. When we arrived at Great Salvage on the 23rd of April, they had not begun to breed, and were generally met with in small companies of three or more, but on the last days of our visit we noted that many had evidently paired, and on the 29th one or two birds were seen going about with nesting-materials in their bills, so the breeding-season must have been just commencing. They apparently rear a second brood in the autumn, for several of the birds we shot were in the freshly-



moulted plumage of the immature bird, with the feathers of the back, wings, and tail widely edged with buff, while in the old birds these parts were in a much-worn condition. Berthelot's Pipit is a wonderfully graceful and active little bird and closely resembles the Grey Wagtail in its movements, as well as the mode in which it captures its insect-prey. Its only note, so far as we heard, is a sharp, prolonged chirp, much like that of the Meadow Pipit, and the bird was never seen to mount into the air and give vent to a prolonged song like its allies.

+5. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA*.

Swallows arrived in great numbers during our stay, many, no doubt attracted by the light, entering our men's stone hut after dark. One evening a regular flight of these birds invaded their sleeping-quarters, and while clinging to the rocky walls like a swarm of bees dozens were caught alive and brought down to our camp in triumph. The Spanish fisherman's shirt is always used as a "poaching pocket," and it is marvellous the number of Petrels one man can manage to stow away round his body. With the exception of a few specially fine birds kept as specimens, the majority of the Swallows were promptly liberated.

6. *CHELIDON URBICA*.

+7. *COTILE RIPARIA*.

Both House- and Sand-Martins were seen daily, and we procured a few specimens of each. Twice during the early morning I saw flights of the latter pass quite low over the top of Great Salvage, travelling in a northerly direction.

8. *CYPSELUS MURINUS*.

9. *CYPSELUS UNICOLOR*.

According to Mr. Hartert the former of these is a subspecies of the Common Swift (*C. apus*), and our specimens bear out the distinguishing characters he mentions, being much paler and having the white colour on the throat more extended. But we cannot see that there is any difference in size, for the wing in specimens from Teneriffe and Great Salvage measures 6.6 inches, which is the average measure-

ment in *C. apus*. This Swift was pretty numerous and constantly seen wheeling backwards and forwards amongst the rocks near the top of the island, in company with the second species (*C. unicolor*), which was, however, comparatively scarce, and easily distinguished on the wing by its much smaller size and darker colour.

#### 10. CAPRIMULGUS EUROPÆUS.

On our second visit to the Great Piton a Goatsucker rose from among some sandy ground, and was shot by our taxidermist, Mr. Grönvold. It proves an interesting bird, and belongs to the small race of *C. europæus*, which ranges as far south as Damaraland in winter, and is also met with in Spain and Algeria (see Koenig, J. f. O. 1895, pp. 176–178). Mr. Hartert has kindly gone into the matter with me, and we find that our bird is scarcely separable from *C. unwini*, being of the same dimensions, and only differing in the somewhat darker tone of the upper parts. As regards colour, it is perfectly similar to the typical *C. europæus* from Europe and the British Isles; but it is much smaller. Though we have provisionally included it under this heading, it is quite possible that Mr. Hartert, who is at present engaged on a careful revision of the Goatsuckers, may find sufficient reasons for regarding it either as a distinct subspecies, or a darker western form of the subspecies *C. unwini*.

The following measurements will show how it differs from typical *C. europæus* in size:—

	Wing. in.	Tail. in.
Typical <i>C. europæus</i> .....	7·6–7·9	5·5–5·7
Small { ♂ ad. Damaraland .....	7·15	4·7 (moulting).
{ ♂ ad. Great Piton .....	7·15	5·1
{ ♂ ad. Spain .....	7·25	5·5
{ ♂ ♀ ad. Algeria ( <i>ex Koenig</i> )	6·9–7·3	4·7–5·5

#### 11. TURTUR COMMUNIS.

We procured a Common Turtle Dove on the Great Piton, and saw a pair on Great Salvage; startled by a shot they dashed from a hole in the face of the cliffs, and disappeared over the top, far out of shot.

## +12. STREPSILAS INTERPRES.

## +13. NUMENIUS PHÆOPUS.

## 14. ÆGIALITIS CURONICA (Gm.).

The Turnstone, Whimbrel, and Little Ringed Plover were met with in small flocks on the Great Piton, but not seen on Great Salvage, the barren rocky shores being, perhaps, too unattractive.

## 15. STERNA FLUVIATILIS.

A good many pairs of the Common Tern were seen at both islands, but we could find no traces of their nesting, though the sandy shores of Great Piton were well suited for it. Perhaps it was too early.

## 16. LARUS CACHINNANS.

About a dozen pairs of the Yellow-footed Herring Gull had nests about the rocky points on the top of Great Salvage, but we only found one with eggs, and these on the point of hatching; the other nests were either empty or contained downy young. These had their enemies of some sort, for a nest which contained three young the day we found it had only one remaining a few days later. This may have been the work of other Gulls, but we could not help suspecting the Great Hook-billed Pardelas (*Puffinus kuhli*) of being the culprits, for hundreds of them used to come out of their holes in the rocks, or leave their stone houses on the top of the island just before sunset, and fly rather low all over the stony plateau, making the beautiful evening hideous with their incessant cries of "ĩā-gow-a-gow-a-gow"; they certainly appeared to be in search of food of some sort, but we had no means of proving that our suspicions were correct.

## +17. PUFFINUS KUHLI.

Our arrival on Great Salvage apparently caused great excitement among the bird-inhabitants, our tent being a special object of wonder, the Pardelas, or Mediterranean Shearwaters, being especially bold and noisy in their greeting. The high volcanic rocks surrounding the south bay are full of miniature caves, in most of which a pair of the Pardelas had their home, and towards sunset the whole population

turned out wheeling and screaming round our encampment, and offering the most tempting rocketing shots as they swept over the high rocks above us.

The male, in a harsh guttural voice, cries “ĩã-gow-a-gow-a-gow,” and the female chimes in “ĩã-ĩã-ĩã,” and it may be imagined that with thousands of these miscreants circling close round our tent during the entire night, tired as we were, sleep was almost impossible on the first evening of our stay. During the whole of our visit we used every night to be mobbed by these noisy birds. The “march-past,” as we called it, generally commenced about six, and continued with unabated zest till we turned in about 10.30 and heard no more. In spite of the tempting shots they offered, we killed very few of these birds, only such as we required for specimens; but our men were not so sparing, for they used every day to catch numbers for food (they skinned and boiled them!), and took back sackfuls to Las Palmas, where, when salted, they are much esteemed by the Spanish fishermen.

The Pardela breeds late, and though during the daytime we found most of the birds in pairs in their rocky nesting-chambers, we never procured a single egg. Enormous numbers of the young are collected by the Portuguese fishermen every autumn, being valued for their oil and downy feathers; the oil is of poor quality, and, as we were informed, is chiefly used for dressing coal-sacks. The happy couples greatly resent being disturbed in their nesting-cavities, and unless extracted without hesitation retaliate by biting with great vigour; their curved bills, with their sharp, cutting edges, being apt to leave an ugly wound on those unskilled in the mode of handling them.

Though the majority pass the day in the holes in the rocks, many also rest at sea, and may be seen in flocks floating quietly on the surface at most hours of the day. On our return journey the ‘Pedro’ ran right over one of these Shearwaters sleeping peacefully with its head under its wing, but beyond a rough awakening it flew off apparently none the worse. On several occasions, when sitting in our



camp by lantern-light, skinning the birds collected during the day, we were startled by one of these great Shearwaters dashing into our midst like some great white moth dazzled by the light; fortunately none of them ever struck us, or we might have had the worst of the encounter. These birds are evidently the Cormorants alluded to by Mr. Knight in his '*Cruise of the 'Alerte,'* p. 85. He writes:—"The Cormorants dwelt with their families in fine stone houses which they had constructed with great ingenuity. Some of the stones were large and heavy; it would be interesting to observe how the birds set to work to move them, and how they put the roof on. I have been told that they rake up a mound of stones with their powerful wings in such a way that by removing some of those underneath they leave the roof above them." This is of course obviously impossible, some of the stones being a great weight; the fact is that these little stone huts are put up all over the top of the island by the Portuguese fishermen for the birds to nest in, so that the young may be the more easily obtained when they visit the place in autumn. This is commonly done also in the Canaries.

When pulled out of their stone houses during the daytime these birds present a very ludicrous spectacle as they stalk slowly off with a bewildered air, not unmixed with reproach. After a time they get on the wing and make off, their eyes having, I suppose, got accustomed to the light; but if taken from their nesting-chambers and thrown up into the air they drop to the ground like stones, without making any attempt to save themselves with their wings. Bulwer's Petrel acts in exactly the same way.

It has already been remarked that we were inclined to suspect the Pardelas of stealing the young of the Yellow-footed Herring Gull, but it must be admitted that there was no direct evidence against them, beyond the fact that they quartered the ground every evening, apparently in search of food, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Gulls' nests, and were armed with strong hooked bills, which looked capable of making short work of downy young, and caused

their owners to be regarded as suspicious characters. The plumage in both sexes is of course alike; but the male is decidedly the bigger of the two, and when alive may be easily distinguished by his larger head and thicker neck, though these differences disappear when the bird is skinned. On the wing, too, he looks distinctly larger.

+18. *PUFFINUS ASSIMILIS*.

Gould's Little Shearwater, so far as we ascertained, was the only other bird of this genus that visits Great Salvage. At Porto Santo we had already found it breeding plentifully on the Lime Island, and satisfied ourselves that it is this species—and not *P. obscurus*—that occurs there. The young birds do not show the white inner webs to the quills clearly, and hence Mr. Salvin and I were both led to believe that the specimens brought back in 1890 (see 'Ibis,' 1891, p. 469) were the young of *P. obscurus*. I recently examined more than a dozen of old birds in Padre Schmitz's collection at Madeira, which had been obtained at Porto Santo, and these were, without exception, typical *P. assimilis*. At Great Salvage we procured downy young in various stages, and one late egg, almost fresh; this is large for the size of the bird, and the shell is pure white and perfectly oval in shape, the two poles being equally rounded. We never saw much of these birds. During the daytime there were generally some to be seen at sea, often in company with the Mediterranean Shearwater, and one night an old female flew into our camp attracted by the powerful lantern. Every night our men used to sally forth in pairs, to search for this and other species of Petrels, in their nesting-cavities on the sides of the cliffs—bad enough walking, even in daylight, but no harm came of it. One man carried the lamp (a tin coffee-pot it looked like, filled with kerosene oil, and with a coarse cotton wick protruding from the spout), which gave out a brilliant light, while his companion searched the numerous miniature caves and crevices till he had filled his own and the lamp-bearer's shirts with birds of various kinds. In this way we got several nice adults of this species, which

were never to be found with their young during the day. The note of these birds we never ascertained, and when seen on the wing they were always perfectly silent so far as we noticed.

The egg measures 1.9 by 1.35 inch.

—19. PELAGODROMA MARINA.

The White-breasted or Frigate Petrel, as Latham called it, was certainly one of the most interesting species met with during our stay on Great Salvage. It is a lovely bird, with all the underparts as well as the forehead and wide eyebrow stripes snow-white, while the upper parts are dark sooty brown. The legs are very long, and together with the feet deep black, only the middles of the webs being yellow. This species was previously known to inhabit the Australian seas, and its eggs were procured many years ago by Gould's collector, Gilbert, on some small islands off the south-west coast of Australia, in the month of December. One or two specimens are generally obtained every year off the Canary Islands, and one was picked up dead on Walney Island, after a severe gale, in November 1890; but this was of course merely an accidental straggler.

We first observed and recognized with pleasure these beautiful Petrels as we neared the Salvages, when numbers were seen flitting along close to the surface of the sea, with their long legs dangling beneath them and just touching the water. Now they would be lost sight of in the hollows between the huge Atlantic rollers, now reappear, closely following the undulating waters with their graceful easy flight. On the afternoon of our arrival on Great Salvage we found an egg of this bird in what we at first mistook for a rabbit-burrow, but it was unfortunately broken by one of the men. This, however, opened our eyes, and we subsequently found that large colonies of the White-breasted Petrel were breeding on the flat top of the island, in burrows dug out in the sandy ground, and partly concealed by the close-growing ice-plant. It was very unpleasant walking over these breeding-grounds, which occupied considerable areas, for

the ground was honeycombed with burrows in every direction, and gave way at each step, one's boots rapidly becoming full of sand. By thrusting one's arm into one hole after another, we soon procured a fine series of specimens, accompanied in most cases by an egg, for we had evidently hit off the breeding-season, and most of the birds, having laid their single egg, were beginning to sit. Most of the eggs were white, more or less finely spotted, and often zoned towards the larger end, with dark red and purplish dots, but some few were equally spotted all over the shell, while one was almost entirely devoid of markings. In shape they vary considerably, some being perfect ovals equally round at both ends, while others are slightly pointed at the one end (*cf.* Forbes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 542). Both sexes take part in incubation, for out of twelve birds captured on the egg three were males. While thus engaged we found quite a number of dead birds and sucked eggs, evidently the work of the mice already mentioned, as their droppings were to be seen all about the burrows, and the marks of their teeth upon the empty shells were unmistakable. The birds, some of which were quite freshly killed and almost untouched, were invariably done to death by being bitten at the nape of the neck, and in some cases part of the brain had been eaten. It seemed curious that these comparatively small mice should be able to kill a bird several times larger than themselves, and provided with a fairly strong, hooked bill; but no doubt the Petrels get caught in the end of their burrow, and, being terrified, do not even try to defend themselves. We obtained no young of this species, and the most advanced eggs were but half incubated on April 27th. We never heard the call of this bird; those flying over the sea during the daytime were always perfectly silent so far as we heard, though they constantly passed close to our tug, and there was no lack of them. When caught on their eggs they uttered a short, grunting note, much like that given vent to by the domestic Pigeon under similar circumstances. Our Lanzarote pilot informed us that numbers of these birds breed on the Little



Piton, where there are neither rats nor mice to interfere with them.

The following measurements are taken from a number of adults of both sexes, and we find that the males on the average are distinctly smaller than the females, though this is not apparent from the condensed measurements given below. The average male wing is 6·25, that of the female 6·38.

	Wing. in.	Tail. in.	Tarsus. in.
Five males .....	5·8-6·6	2·85-3·1	1·67-1·75
Thirteen females .....	5·8-6·6	3·1 -3·2	1·75-1·8

A large series of eggs measures 1·35-1·48 by 1·0-1·08 inch.

#### +20. OCEANODROMA CRYPTOLEUCURA.

*Cymochorea cryptoleucura*, Ridgw. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. iv. p. 337 (1882).

Almost more interesting than the white-breasted species was the square-tailed, white-rumped Petrel, of which we obtained but a single example, caught at night by our men on Great Salvage, though we saw several flying over the neighbouring seas from the deck of our steam-tug. This bird had not yet come to shore to breed, and the only egg we obtained was taken on the Lime Island, Porto Santo, in the month of June. It had always been previously supposed that the only small white-rumped Petrel with black webs to the feet met with in these seas was Leach's fork-tailed Petrel (*O. leucorrhoa*). That this bird also occurs there is certain, for we have seen a specimen obtained at the Canaries by Mr. Meade-Waldo, but it would appear to be merely a straggler so far south, and certainly the square-tailed species is the bird that has generally been mistaken for it. *O. cryptoleucura* was described a few years ago from the Sandwich Islands, and no one had any idea that it was also found in the Canary Seas, so that this discovery is a matter of considerable interest to ornithologists. The birds obtained at St. Helena also belong to this form, and not to Leach's Petrel, as has been generally believed. It may be useful to state the main differences between the two.

*O. leucorrhœa* has the tail *deeply forked*, the outer feathers being much longer than the middle pair and dark to the base, while the upper tail-coverts are uniform white, *not* tipped with black.

*O. cryptoleucura* has the tail *nearly square*, the outer feathers being only slightly longer than the middle pair, the basal part of the outer feathers is white, and the upper tail-coverts are white, *tipped with black*.

According to our Lanzarote pilot, this species breeds commonly on the Little Piton, and it was with great regret that we had to leave the Salvages without visiting this little island. In propitious weather it is just possible to effect a landing on its dangerous rocks, and it was only the fear of missing our steamer at Las Palmas that prevented our making the attempt, for on our second visit to the Great Piton our pilot told us the sea and wind were fairly favourable.

Since our return to England we have obtained, through Padre Ernesto Schmitz, several additional examples of this species from Madeira, the Lime Island, Porto Santo, and the Desertas Islands, and of these I add the following measurements:—

*Four males.* Wing 5·6–5·95 inches, tail 2·8–2·9, tarsus 0·81–0·9.

*Three females.* Wing 5·85–6·2 inches, tail 2·8–2·9, tarsus 0·85–0·95.

The male is distinctly rather a smaller bird than the female; the average male wing is 5·8, that of the female 5·98 inches.

The only egg we obtained measures 1·3 by 0·96 inch. It is exactly like the egg of Leach's Petrel, white, with an indistinct zone of light red, and faint purplish underlying dots round the larger end.

#### +21. BULWERIA BULWERI.

The brownish-black Bulwer's Petrel was the only other species met with on Great Salvage. It is a common bird in the Madeira and Canary Seas. We were too early for its eggs, but obtained four taken at the Lime Island, Porto Santo,

and Desertas, in the month of June. Our men used to catch numbers of this Petrel every night, and it was nothing for Manuel or Francisco to produce half-a-dozen each out of their shirts; but, with the exception of a few which we kept as specimens, the majority were allowed to escape. The call of this bird is very fine, and was frequently heard at night, a pleasant contrast to the harsh voices of the Great Shearwaters; it consists of four higher notes, and a lower, more prolonged note; the whole repeated several (usually three) times, and uttered in a loud, cheerful strain, which may be correctly expressed as follows:—



The eggs are pure white, almost pyriform in shape, and distinctly pointed towards the smaller end. Four shells measure 1·59–1·81 inch by 1·12–1·28.

#### IV.—On the Species of the Genus *Turdinulus*.

By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT.

IN the October number of 'The Ibis' 1895 (p. 432) I described a new species of Babbler (*Turdinulus guttaticollis*), from the Miri Hills. A more careful examination of the little group of Timeliæ to which this species belongs shows that the Miri bird is much more closely allied to the true Robert's Babbler (*Pnoëpyga* [*Turdinulus*] *roberti*, Godwin-Austen & Walden) than I at first supposed; and that the birds from Mount Mooleyit, Tenasserim, which have been named *T. roberti* by both Col. Godwin-Austen and Mr. A. O. Hume, and with which I compared my new species, belong in reality to a perfectly distinct species, having the throat and fore neck entirely devoid of the black spots which are equally characteristic of the true *T. roberti* and *T. guttaticollis*.

In 1877 Limborg and W. Davison visited Mount Mooleyit and secured a number of specimens of *Turdinulus*.